

cabin baggage in accordance with specific instructions in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Revision of Steel Prices

6245. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the steel prices were last revised;

(b) since then, the percentage increase in its price and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the steel prices are likely to be increased in the coming fiscal year; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to manage the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Base prices of steel in respect of the main producers were last revised by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) on 19.9.1990.

(b) Since then there has been no general price increase of steel in respect of the main of producers.

(c) and (d) The JPC system of price regulation on the products of the main producers was dispensed with on 16.1.1992. Depending upon the market situation, the main producers may revise their prices as and when warranted.

[*English*]

Response to Power Bonds

6246. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the response to the power bonds issued by the Government has been poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The comparatively poor response to power bonds during 1991-92 could be attributed to tight money market, availability of other attractive financial instruments in the market, high supply of PSU Bonds in the secondary market, provision for tax deduction at source etc. The PSUs under the Department have been advised to diverse suitable financial instrument and adopt appropriate market strategies.

[*Translation*]

Tourism in Rajasthan

6247. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tourists who visited Rajasthan during the last six months;

(b) the names of important tourist resort visited by them and the number of tourists who visited those places;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in regard to linking Ajmer by air service to facilitate and increase domestic and foreign tourists visiting Ajmer and Pushkar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As per information made available by State Government, the total number of tourists who visited Rajasthan during last six months in 1991 is 26,37,221.

(b) The names of important tourist centres alongwith the number of tourists who visited them during the above period are given below:

Centre	Number of tourists
Mount Abu	3,79,888
Udaipur	3,62,144
Jaipur	3,45,541
Jodhpur	2,91,150
Ajmer	2,63,040
Puskar	2,39,394
Jaisalmer	1,34,544
Nathdwara	1,18,466

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is not possible to airlink any new station at present due to commercial and operational reasons.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

6248. SHRI PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in Hamirpur

Telecommunications Circle of Himachal Pradesh where people have deposited the initial advance deposit for telephone connections:

(b) whether telephone exchanges have been installed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which exchanges are likely to be installed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 37 upto 29.2.1992 in Hamirpur telecom Division (not Circle)

(b) and (c). New telephone exchanges have been installed at 3 places, namely, Makra Karloti in Bilaspur district, Nangal Jaryala in Una district and Tal in Hamirpur district.

(d) and (e). New telephone exchanges at remaining places will be installed progressively depending upon existence of minimum demand, subject to availability of resources and technical feasibility .

Loss in Centaur Hotel

6249. DR. V. RAJESWARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centaur hotels are suffering loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to make the hotels viable; and

(d) whether the government propose to